

7 Apr 1966

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[] Program Proposals Memo to D/NRO from [] D/Recon 25X1

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Your proposal for a management plan and organization responsibilities for [] raises problem of such magnitude it must be resolved before other aspects of the program can be meaningfully reviewed.

Concerned about problem of interface between the responsibilities assigned SAFSP and CIA. D/SAFSP, as System Project Director, SPD, is assigned overall responsibility for integrated engineering system, including definition of interface specs. You state the SPD in exercise of his interface responsibility is required to meet the basic structural, dynamic and thermal rqmts of the sensor sub-system.

I assume the latter is intended to imply the primacy of the sensor system rqmts in interface relationships, however, your enacting directive does not make this point clear and could be subject to a contrary interpretation.. I believe the concept of an integrated system with two partners in a project as complex as [] elevates the interface problem to one of major proportions involving continual negotiation between the SPD and the SSSPO (Sensor Sub-System Project Office --CIA). IF CIA is to obtain for the sensor system the priority of rqmts it shld have, I can foresee that many conflicts will evolve at the working level and could result in repeated appeals at higher level. Multitude of interface problems of this proposal would serious jeopardize effective working relation of CIA with contractors.

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Recommend you permit assignment of [] full responsibility for the sensor to a single partner, in this case CIA, from development stage to full opn. This would assure rqmts of sensor system are in no way degraded.

Wld like to point out that with CIA's in-house technical personnel and its relationships with contractors built up over the years it possesses a capability of program management commensurate with that of SAFSP. This capability has been amply demonstrated in management of the CORONA as well as other NRO programs. I cannot accept your statement that SAFSP is the only NRP component of the NRO possessing the personnel, facilities, operational resources, experience, and technical competence to be designated SPD for the new general search and surveillance satellite system.

Wld appreciate early opportunity to discuss with you personally.

NRO review(s) completed.

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